

Young shepherd qualifier for NZ world championships

There is a fantastic opportunity for two English young farmers to compete in the first ever World Young Shepherds Competition, taking place in New Zealand in November. The world championships are open to competitors aged between 20 and 25 years.

The qualifying competitions for English competitors will take place at:

NSA North Sheep event will be held on Wednesday 8 June 2011 at West Nubbock Farm, Hexham, Northumberland, kindly hosted by Lewis and Helen Forster.

NSA Sheep South West event will be held on Tuesday 14th June 2011 at Stantor Barton Farm, Marldon, Paignton, Devon, kindly hosted by Andrew Palk & family.

The highest placed eligible competitors from the NSA Young Shepherd competitions, held at the NSA North Sheep and NSA Sheep South West Sheep events will be able to go forward to the world championships being staged in South Island, New Zealand in November 2011 kindly sponsored by EBLEX. In addition, the highest placed northern and southern young shepherds at the regional NSA events, will qualify to represent NSA Northern/Southern Regions at the National Young Shepherd's competition to be staged at NSA Sheep 2012, at Malvern in July next year.

The Young Shepherd Award is designed to test the entrants' shepherding skills in a pentathlon of activities. Each entrant will be required to sort finished lambs for slaughter and demonstrate handling tasks, shearing, vaccinating and dosing techniques, along with stock judging. They will also be questioned on flock management and health issues.

"We are pleased to host and support this new award to select a qualifier to represent England in the new World Young Shepherd's Competition to be staged in New Zealand," says NSA North Sheep event organiser, Julie Sedgewick. "We are acutely aware that the biggest long term challenge which continues to face the sheep industry is to encourage young people to be involved. These two competitions are designed to help equip tomorrow's sheep keepers with the skills they need and give recognition once those skills have become honed."

For more information about the competitions and to enter contact:

NSA North Sheep 2011 Contact Julie Sedgewick on 07836 773888,
www.northsheep.org.uk

NSA Sheep South West Sheep 2011 Contact Sue Martyn on 01409 271385 / 07967 512660 email suem@nationalsheep.org.uk

